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May 5, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038. Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food.

Consumers have a right-to-know!

I strongly urge the Food and Drug Administration to maintain requirements for the full labeling of irradiated foods. This labeling should use the "radura" symbol with a statement indicating that the food was treated with radiation.

Lack of such labeling would be very misleading, as irradiation changes nutritional content, creates potentially hazardous byproducts, and changes rates of spoilage – all in ways that are not readily apparent to the consumer. Lack of labeling would mislead consumers. We have a right-to-know.

I specifically support the comments of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, including that labeling requirements should not expire at any time in the future, and that the FDA should extend the comment period beyond May 18.

Sincerely,



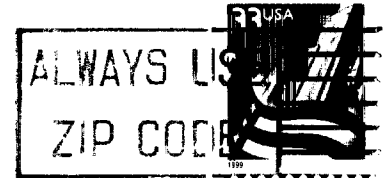
Paul Orum

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Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith
Representative Peter DeFazio

98N-1038

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